

Feb. 2008

The Pains

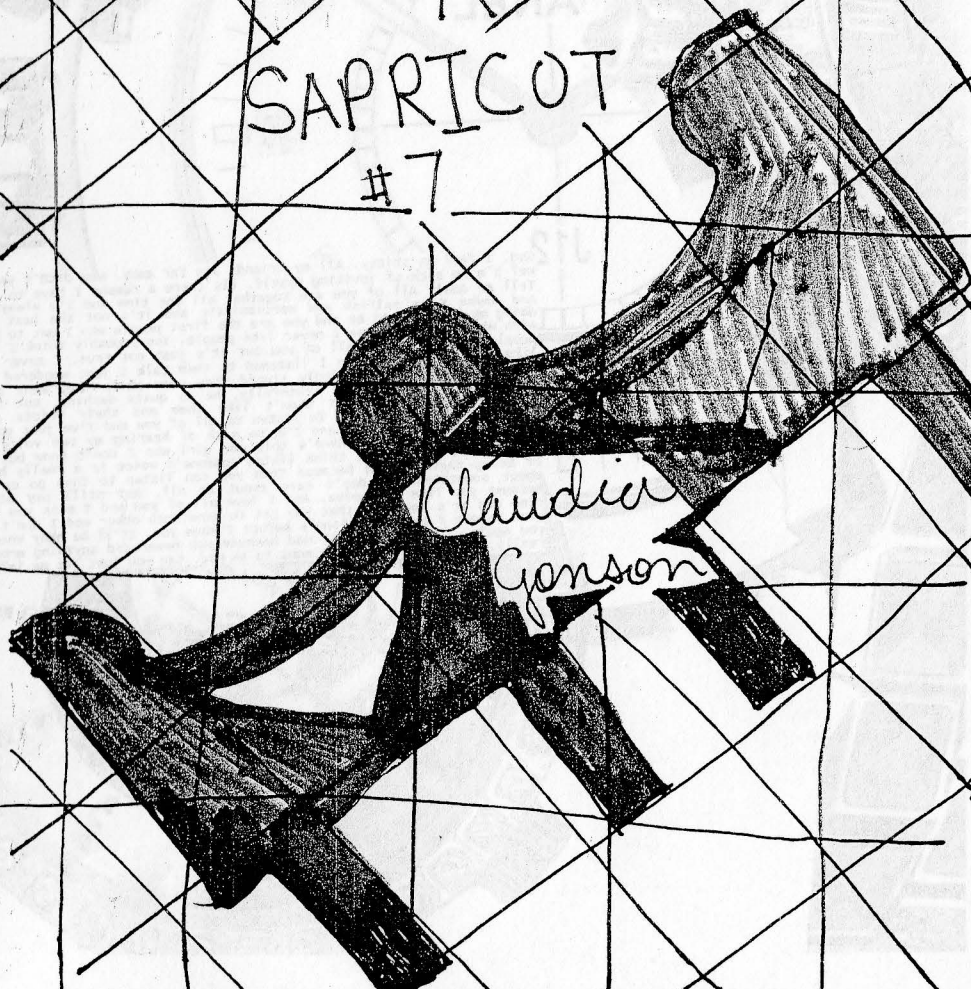
Sapricot #7

SAPRICOT

#7

Claudia
Gonson

Louise Brooks





God. I feel so shitty. All my friends are far away. Why didn't you invite me? I'm so sick of inviting myself. (Is there a reason I have to do that? Tell me now!) All of you are together all the time and I'm always alone. And maybe I am selfish and narcissistic and it's not the best but I'm doing my best not to be and you are the first people who I get to hang out with who I love because I never like people. You probably think I like all like my friends and when I listened to them talk I just wondered if they realized how flabbergastingly stupid they were while they went on about sexy Johnny Depp is, and truthfully, he is quite dashing, but I didn't want to like them so I didn't like them and their voices gave me headaches, but now I want to listen to all of you and I've just got a bad habit of always talking and I'm so sick of hearing my own voice, but I love all your voices. There's this one girl who I don't know but I like her voice a lot, and I think liking someone's voice is a really big part of being their friend because then you can listen to them go on and on about something you don't care about at all, but still pay attention because you like the noise. And I love all of you and I miss you all the time and it's not fair that you get to know each other and I don't get to know anyone I was never lonely before I knew you. It'll be okay when I see you again. I can never stay mad because you never did anything wrong, not really, and besides, I don't want to be mad. Can you just let me in?

I find myself alone and forlorn in the
stocking room of a high-class record store. It's
better than the last place I worked. I'm out of
money and I was forced to sell all my LPs
because I have no place to stay and they don't
fit in my messenger bag. Destitute and out of
luck, I'm forced to work in the back of record
stores, holding hands with shy indie boys for
money. I don't really mind it. They come
back here, hold my hand for 15 minutes, and
then leave, still under the impression that
I'm devastatingly cool. I like it better than real
hand holding, even, because these boys never
are disappointed in me. I am really good
at hand holding, as people do when they
talk to me more than once a week and don't
have to pay for it. It just feels a little sad to
be reduced to this. I guess you gotta pay the
bills somehow.

A boy walks in,
about same as
usual, head down,
hands in anorak.
He sits down on
the milk crate
next to me and
he takes my hand
and I give his
hand a reassuring
squeeze and
he looks at me
and he says

"
Let's
run away"

"You just mean stay the night"
I say. He says "Let's go" and smiles
to indicate he got my reference.
He knows I wouldn't go if he
didn't, and anyway, he wouldn't take
me. He gets up and pulls me with him
and I go, because I have nowhere else to.
You can't get much lower than holding hands
for money, except maybe selling lemonade.

We ran
out of the
record store
and hopped on
his vespa. "This
isn't a rescue"
he said. "Because
that wouldn't
be riot gear, and
I'm just as bad
off as you are.
I almost had a
radio show at
a college station."
"Oh my!" I
said. "That is
awful!" I said,
in shock.
"Right" he said,
avoiding my
gaze.
"So,

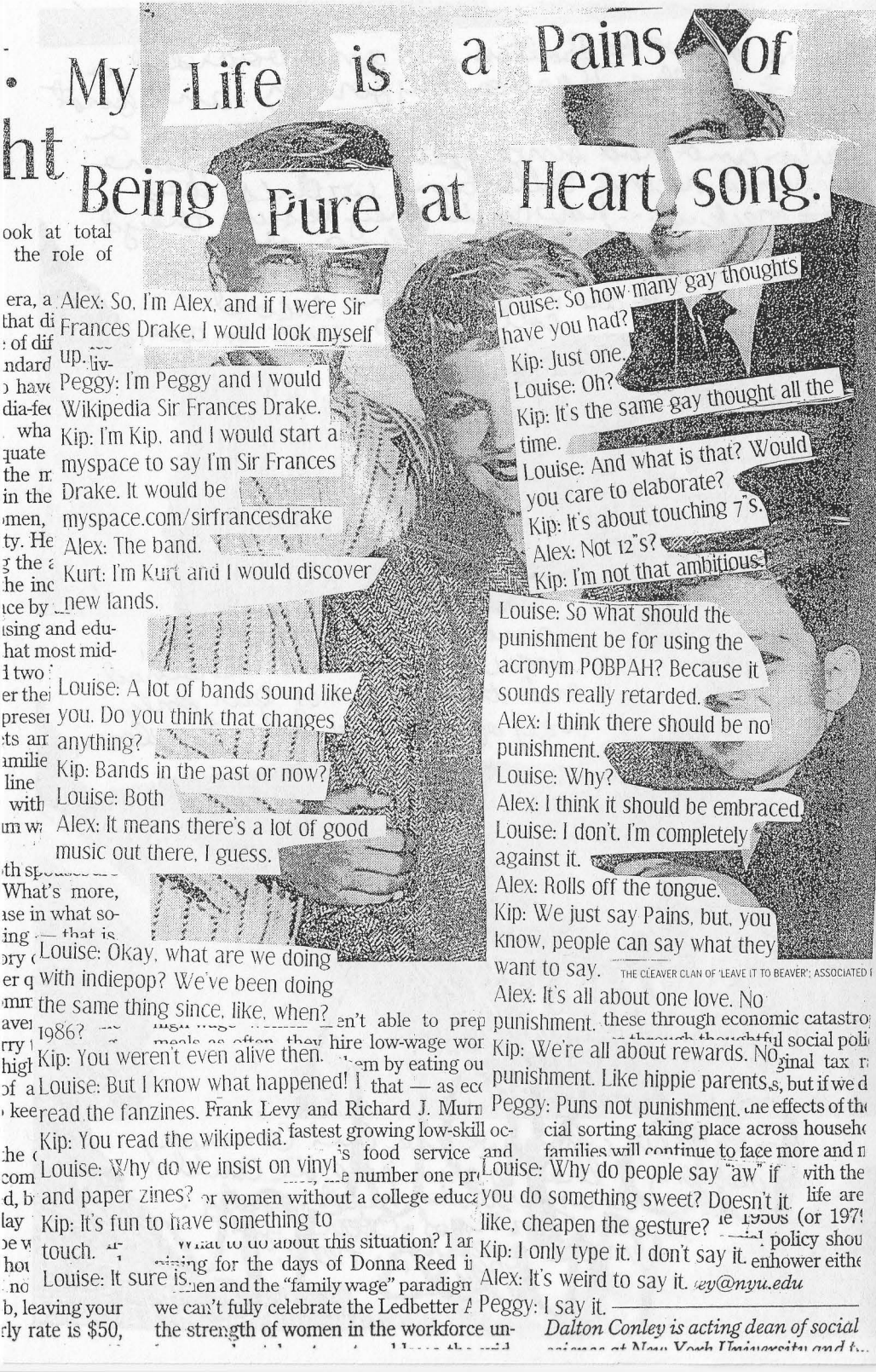
this isn't a rescue.
It's an
event.

We drove to Baltimore and boarded a boat in the harbor. My former and best love, Edwin, who had left me to become a sailor and had since found a girl who he combined record collections with (so they couldn't break up... how could they be sure they'd get their favorites back?) and the Captain officiated at the marriage of me and my boy, though we did not combine record collections, just in case,

and now I'm at sea, because our boat crashed, and this zine is our only way of getting help. So, please,

I don't know where we are but Ceremony is planning that is some help. We could be at it is underwater mystery party. Sheesh. Sorry of Ceremony get more and help. Please.

DO YOU
MISS ME?



My Life is a Pains of Being Pure at Heart song.

ook at total
the role of

era, a Alex: So, I'm Alex, and if I were Sir
that di Frances Drake, I would look myself

ndard up. liv-
Peggy: I'm Peggy and I would
dia-fec Wikipedia Sir Frances Drake.

wha Kip: I'm Kip, and I would start a
quate myspace to say I'm Sir Frances
the r Drake. It would be

in the mspace.com/sirfrancesdrake

men, Alex: The band.

ty. He Kurt: I'm Kurt and I would discover
g the new lands.
he inc

ice by using and edu-
hat most mid-

l two Louise: A lot of bands sound like
er the you. Do you think that changes
preser anything?

ts are Kip: Bands in the past or now?

amilie Louise: Both

line with Louise: It means there's a lot of good
m w: music out there, I guess.

th spou-
What's more,

se in what so-
ing — that is

ry Louise: Okay, what are we doing
er q with indiepop? We've been doing
the same thing since, like, when?

ave 1986? en't able to prep

high Kip: You weren't even alive then. hire low-wage wor
of a Louise: But I know what happened! I that — as ec
ke read the fanzines. Frank Levy and Richard J. Murr

Kip: You read the wikipedia. fastest growing low-skill oc-

com Louise: Why do we insist on vinyl? is food service and
d, b and paper zines? or women without a college educ; the number one pr

lay Kip: It's fun to have something to

de v touch. what to do about this situation? I ar
hou rining for the days of Donna Reed i

no Louise: It sure is men and the "family wage" paradigm
b, leaving your we can't fully celebrate the Ledbetter A
ly rate is \$50, the strength of women in the workforce un-

Louise: So how many gay thoughts
have you had?

Kip: Just one.

Louise: Oh?

Kip: It's the same gay thought all the
time.

Louise: And what is that? Would
you care to elaborate?

Kip: It's about touching 7's.

Alex: Not 12's?

Kip: I'm not that ambitious.

Louise: So what should the
punishment be for using the
acronym POBPAH? Because it
sounds really retarded.

Alex: I think there should be no
punishment.

Louise: Why?

Alex: I think it should be embraced.

Louise: I don't. I'm completely
against it.

Alex: Rolls off the tongue.

Kip: We just say Pains, but, you
know, people can say what they
want to say.

Alex: It's all about one love. No

punishment, these through economic catastro-

Kip: We're all about rewards. No, ginal tax r
punishment. Like hippie parents,s, but if we d

Peggy: Puns not punishment. ane effects of the

cial sorting taking place across househo

Louise: Why do people say "aw" if with the

you do something sweet? Doesn't it life are

like, cheapen the gesture? ie 1950s (or 197?

Kip: I only type it. I don't say it. policy shou
Alex: It's weird to say it. ey@nyu.edu
Peggy: I say it.

Dalton Conley is acting dean of social
sciences at New York University and t...

ner in the Iraq war, and perhaps in and probably
Louise: Guilt-free three, a former Defense
Alex: What? many contacts and ag
Louise: Guilt-free three, th Iraq is a str
Peggy: Like guilty pleasures? their role

5 Louise: No, like, the three people
 6 you can sleep with even if you're
 7 married or in a relationship, if you
 8 ever have the chance, and your
 9 spouse or girlfriend or boyfriend
 10 can't get mad at you because they
 11 were in your guilt-free three, you're
 12 allowed. You have to discuss this
 13 before you sleep with them, so that
 14 if you do, they can't get mad, so
 15 you can be like "Guilt free three,
 16 come on now. You can't be mad at
 17 me. We discussed this."

a, Alex: ***** Carrie Kennedy and
y uh... and... man, the third one's
t hard. Mostly those two. ed that less
in Kurt: You can have a guilt free two.

Alex: Yeah, guilt free two. Those are no-doubters. 'red this thinking. He beli

Peggy: **** Adam Brody and that the
and . . . Jon Steward. at was true," he
Louise: Kip? year and a half ago it was

Kip: I dunno. I don't wanna sleep with anyone. added, problems clearly
Kurt: Just pick any three dudes.

Alex: Dudes? ²ful assessment conflicts
Kurt: It can be animals. ³ commander
Kip: Okay, Kurt, Alex and Peggy. ⁴hey'd

Kurt: But I'm number one, right?
Kip: Yeah. "Absolutely ludicrous," said Maj
*****: Tony Haliday, Shirley

Kip: Shirley Manson? That's a good one. ^{tragic based during the invasion;}

Matt: Uh... Ron Howard, Fred Rogers and a cat.st answer came from Louise: Rachel? draft of policy develop-

Louise: Okay. Luke?

Lemon, and um . . . uh . . . Calvin Johnson. ed in Iraq is that U.S. soldiers

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Louise: Question for the boys. Does
the reboot button work?

Alex: The what?

Louise: The reboot button.
According to Matt Haynes, there's a
button on boys' lower backs, and if
you ever have any trouble with
them, you can just press it and it
reboots.

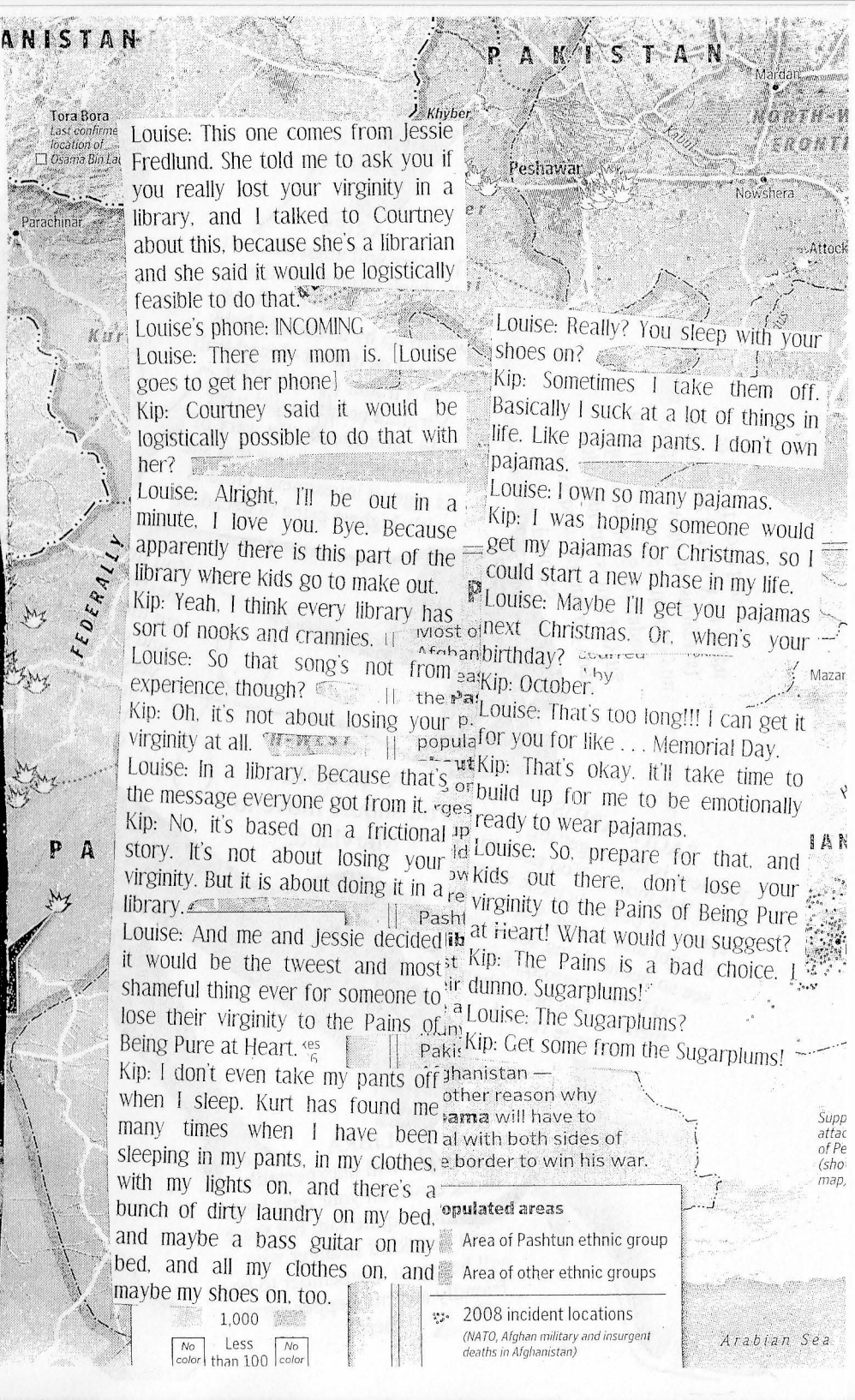
Alex: It's a little lower than that.

Despite Talk, T

AFGHANISTAN, From Page B1

cover article branded those in "Obama's Viet-
nam," arguing that I get those who said they would
by a damn do I get those who said they would
Louise: How do I get those who said they would
goddamn boys who said they would
join a band with me to actually have repeatedly van-
band practice? The National Council on Security
reported that "the Taliban
Alex: The reboot button sense in 72 percent
last year, I found that the 54 percent a year
actual territory.

Reporting on Afghanistan, we're boring? AS indiepop
ality. I got mine las Louise: Are we stagnated? Are we
province in the sou. people. Have we stagnated? Are we
stan. Though the Tal. relevant anymore?
districts in the provin Kip: Were we ever?
vate. "We hate them," or. Alex: Do we need to be?
Qalat told me. "And we do. Louise: But why are we doing this?
sion of Islamic label that Luke: Because it's more fun than sitting
images." just need. What are we trying to say?
Louise: favorite record Luke: Yeah! It's more fun than sitting
still exists and why. Sentiments are appare. Kip: Skipping Stone, duh!
Kip: Skipping Stone, duh! Is. Just last week, Kip: Yeah! It's more fun than sitting
Matt: Series Two! that only 4 percent of A. in my apartment in my underwear
[everyone laughs] government. W. Kip: That's not actually true.
Kip: I dunno, What's Your Rupture? I asked playing Nintendo. Kip: Once you beat Super Mario
feel like saying Slumberland. is by 58. Matt: That's not actually true.
cheating. W. forces overthrew the Taliban r time, like, you're like "Maybe I should
Peggy: Yeah. Slumberland. should play music or something."
Luke: Atomic Beat! have very different ideolo
a radical interpretation of Sunni Islam
grounded in Deobandism, a school of thought
emanating from the Dar ul-Ulum madrassa estab-
lished in Deoband, India, in 1867. The objective of
senior Taliban leaders is to establish an extreme
version of Islamic ideology there.



Louise: This one comes from Jessie Fredlund. She told me to ask you if you really lost your virginity in a library, and I talked to Courtney about this, because she's a librarian and she said it would be logistically feasible to do that.

Louise's phone: INCOMING

Louise: There my mom is. [Louise goes to get her phone]

Kip: Courtney said it would be logistically possible to do that with her?

Louise: Alright, I'll be out in a minute, I love you. Bye. Because apparently there is this part of the library where kids go to make out.

Kip: Yeah, I think every library has sort of nooks and crannies.

Louise: So that song's not your experience, though?

Kip: Oh, it's not about losing your virginity at all.

Louise: In a library. Because that's the message everyone got from it.

Kip: No, it's based on a frictional story. It's not about losing your virginity. But it is about doing it in a library.

Louise: And me and Jessie decided it would be the tweest and most shameful thing ever for someone to lose their virginity to the Pains of Being Pure at Heart.

Kip: I don't even take my pants off when I sleep. Kurt has found me many times when I have been sleeping in my pants, in my clothes, with my lights on, and there's a bunch of dirty laundry on my bed, and maybe a bass guitar on my bed, and all my clothes on, and maybe my shoes on, too.

Louise: Really? You sleep with your shoes on?

Kip: Sometimes I take them off. Basically I suck at a lot of things in life. Like pajama pants. I don't own pajamas.

Louise: I own so many pajamas.

Kip: I was hoping someone would get my pajamas for Christmas, so I could start a new phase in my life.

Louise: Maybe I'll get you pajamas next Christmas. Or, when's your birthday?

Kip: October.

Louise: That's too long!!! I can get it for you for like ... Memorial Day.

Kip: That's okay. It'll take time to build up for me to be emotionally ready to wear pajamas.

Louise: So, prepare for that, and kids out there, don't lose your virginity to the Pains of Being Pure at Heart! What would you suggest?

Kip: The Pains is a bad choice. I dunno. Sugarplums!

Louise: The Sugarplums?

Kip: Get some from the Sugarplums!

Afghanistan — other reason why Osama will have to deal with both sides of a border to win his war.


populated areas

- Area of Pashtun ethnic group
- Area of other ethnic groups

2008 incident locations
(NATO, Afghan military and insurgent deaths in Afghanistan)

1,000
No color
Less than 100
No color

Arabian Sea



PISCES
You've been putting off some important tasks, like pitying fools, making mixtapes, hunting crocodiles (though you ought to avoid the slingshots) and writing letters. You ought to get off your lazy ass.

ARIES
The stars will align and you will drink moonshine from a mason jar. You're will be woken up by a retarded baby crying in its drawer-turned-crib in a trailer park in West Virginia next to a girl with gold canine teeth. Be wary of her husband, but know that she is a good investment. Gold is at it's highest price in decades.

VIRGO
You find yourself in new a unexpected circumstances and are inexperienced in these new and exciting matters. It seems very exciting, but if you wake up to Morrissey giving you butterfly kisses, watch Calvin, too. But Tali's

SAGITTARIUS
Fairness is key to getting your way this month. You need to appeal to people's basic sense of right and wrong. So, if you see someone doing something you think is wrong, smack them up and break their favorite record.

CAPRICORN
You should move to Maryland.

LIBRA
Your car will unexpectedly break down on your next long trip. This is quite sad, but there will be a kind stranger who will help you. Remember to be friendly and not pepper spray them!

AQUARIUS

You should keep a positive mindset, although your current situation may seem bleak. Just take that Field Mice record off your turntable, and the world will immediately seem happier. I highly recommend the new Celestial (out on Music is My Girlfriend/Lavender)

TAURUS

Your business venture will soon come to an end, however, if you play Congress right, you can get a few billion and live comfortably. Try to scare people into thinking that their entire lives will collapse if they don't give you more money. An interesting deal will come your way if you keep your mind open and your morals flexible.

LEO

If you work at it, you can escape from your cage and will be presented with a number of new options, however, your world will have significantly changed and you should learn to adapt. Try new foods, but if he removes the thorn, spare him later.

CANCER

Using the pads of your fingers, press firmly on the breast, checking the entire breast and armpit area. Move around the breast in a circular, up-and-down, or wedge pattern. Remember to use the same method every month. Check both breasts.

GEMINI

Your band will really take off in the next couple of months.

SERIOUSLY THOUGH
GUYS, WE NEED TO
PRACTICE. CALL ME. I AM
PROBABLY FREE ALL
WEEK

SCORPIO

It might be hard for you to control your anger around certain people in your life, but you should try your very best to not punch them in the throats because assault charges are

Claudia Gonson

What's it like being in the same band for so long?

It's one of those questions that's hard to answer, since one can't really know what it's like to be oneself, as opposed to anyone else. The band, as a 4 (now 5) piece, has been together for years and years, but we don't tour very often. Sometimes we don't feel like we're "in the band" for years at a time. We just have our regular lives, and regroup when there's a new album. By contrast, Stephin and I have worked together steadily as manager and artist for two decades. We speak daily, organizing what we need to do to keep all his various bands and projects going. Personally, I think it's good for an artist to have a slow burn rather than a crazy few years trying to make it big. Better on the nerves.

I read somewhere (probably wikipedia) that you manage all the commercial-doing stuff, and do you get a lot of requests? How do you handle that?

You may have been reading in the news about how the music industry is in a state of disarray, due to file sharing and Myspace, and all sorts of ways that people get music for free. Bands are finding it harder to make money from selling records, and are turning to other ways to earn a living. The two most popular ways are from touring, and by placing music into ads and other media. Since my band plays live so infrequently, Stephin and I have concentrated a lot over the last 5-10 years on earning him money as a composer. He is interested in composing more for films. Ad work is great because it pays really well.

How has the live show changed from the beginning now that you're playing extremely large venues?

It's funny, but it's the opposite of what you'd think. We're not sounding bigger. We used to be more of a rock band, with me on drums. Now, due to Stephin's ear sensitivity and our general aging process, we are a quiet chamber-pop band, with me on the grand piano, plus our traditional cello and acoustic guitars. The venues may be larger, but we've gotten a lot quieter, and focused on delicate, folksy arrangements.

Is Stephin a vampire, or have any tendencies that would suggest vampirism (avoiding garlic, being afraid of wooden stakes, pointy teeth, sleeping in a coffin, etc.)? Do you?

Does this have to do with the fact he's written several songs about vampires? He's also into other themes... like the moon and love and stuff like that. Doesn't mean he's secretly a moon. Stephin does enjoy a good vampire movie, like the rest of us.

Have you noticed a difference in the US, UK, and Europe (and wherever else you toured) in how you book things and how people act at shows?

I have all sorts of theories about different audiences, not so much US vs. Europe, but more by country (Spain vs. England), or even by region (DC vs. Boston, or Manchester vs. Edinburgh). I enjoy making broad, and often inaccurate generalizations. We have always prized our San Francisco audiences for being so warm and attuned, and we used to pooh-pooh the DC crowd for being stiff and unreactive, but then we played in DC 3 days ago and it was the best show of the tour. Everyone was really friendly and great. So there you go. Things change of course, according to the performance space, to the time of year, time in history, etc. Audiences seem different now from when we last toured four years ago. Also we have started playing in really elegant theaters, such as symphony halls. That'll make people act quiet and subdued. The booking process does vary between the US and Europe, but honestly I'd be writing for hours to explain it, and you'd fall asleep with boredom.

Has there ever been a song that you had to play, but didn't like? Is it hard not having any creative control?

I'm basically a fan of all of Stephin's songs. There are very few (none that I can actually think of, off hand) that I dislike, and performing them live makes them even more interesting. After I've played a part 100 times, and really learned it, those aesthetic values of 'like' and 'dislike' slip away. You're thinking more about how to express it correctly and do something cool with your performance. As for creative control, I guess I feel like I have a kind of creative control in that I help develop percussion lines and harmonies, do a bit of arranging, and interpret my parts in the live band. Also, perhaps it sounds weird, but I find my work as a manager pretty creative. For instance, we may brainstorm setting up a photo shoot, which means discussing which photographer to use, and what kind of approach we want and how to get it. I get involved in everything, from publicity to album design to recording, to live touring, theater work, film work, etc. While I'm not calling the main creative shots, not writing the songs, I do feel creative because we discuss everything so much.

How do you treat a mosquito bite?

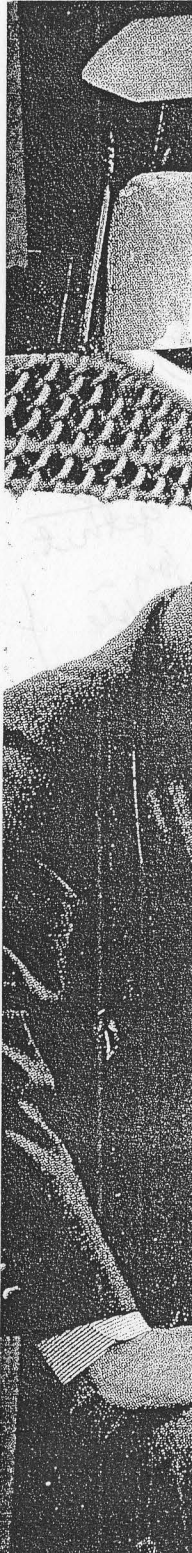
I scratch, then I ignore.

Do you always use the same drum set, or switch? Do you have a different one for touring?

I haven't played drums in the Magnetic Fields since 1997, but when I did, I used the same kit for everything (it's an old 60's Gretsch kit).
(Louise's note: The kit is currently in the hands the Knight School. You should listen to them. They are really good.)

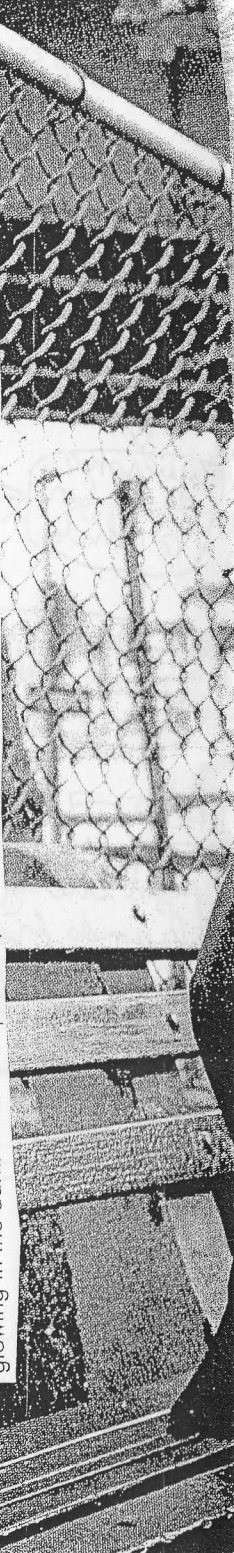
Indiepop Roadtrip Flewchart





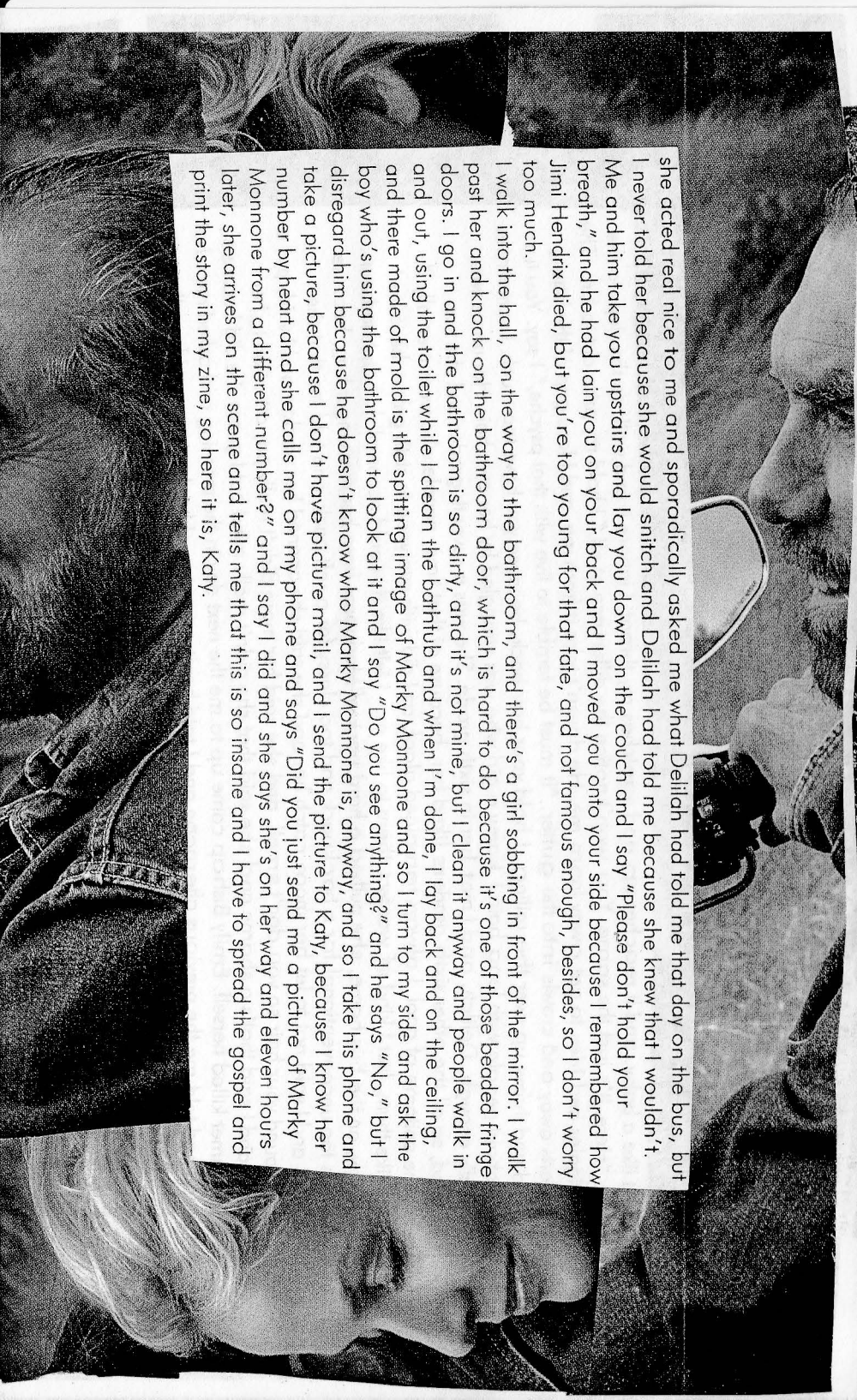
Bottle after bottle after bottle. You wonder whether it'll be worth the hangover. We stand outside in the cold with the smokers, although I don't smoke. I like the porch better than the kitchen, although it is cold, because everyone is an outcast. You talk with your friends in the kitchen, but outside, you talk with everyone else who isn't allowed in the kitchen because they smoke. Maybe I enjoy being an outcast too much, or maybe I find smoke a comforting smell that reminds me of childhood, when my parents would sit in the hospital with my grandfather and they would all smoke until the nurse came in to tell them they weren't allowed and to show them the scans of my grandfather's lung cancer. In any case, I'm shivering and you have a jacket and a coat, but don't offer one to me. You're drunk and thus blameless. My drink is empty, but I hate refilling it myself, so I set my cup down, and realize shortly thereafter that that was a mistake, because at least before I had something to hold so I could look busy, instead of holding my own hand. The Ding torch has been passed and I hear How Soon is Now? for the third time tonight, once at each place we've stopped. I look at you and smile.

He comes down the stairs and glares daggers at me. I grab my empty cup so it doesn't look like I was littering on her porch. I wondered for a minute what Ian MacKaye would do in this situation. "Don't worry, I'll buy you a new kitten!" I said to him, smiling. There's a stray cat in the middle of the street. I walk to it and crouch down. My skirt brushes the wet ground and I can feel the water climbing. I ignore it and beckon to the cat "Here kitty, kitty. Come on, baby, it'll be okay." The cat hisses at me, its eyes glowing in the dark. I take two quick steps forward, and before it can run, I scoop it up in my arms. I



hold it like a baby, and it reaches up and scratches my throat. I ignore it and walk up the steps to the porch. "Here. It's just the same. You won't notice the difference at all," I hold my prize out to him. The cat wriggles and tries to get away from me. He doesn't take it from me, and I lose grip of the kitten, who darts away and crawls into the gutter. "It must be terrible to live with that psyche," I say. You turn around and throw up over the railing. I hold your hair back, because you have too much. I sometimes worry about people with long hair. I knew a girl who was strangled by her own hair. Her name was, ironically enough, Delilah, and I met her in sixth grade. She was a seventh grader and she was troubled, so all the other sixth graders liked her, because at that time, people who were mentally ill were the epitome of cool. I always remained aloof, as I did with everyone in sixth grade, because I didn't like them, but I kind of wanted them to like me. I felt like if I could accomplish that, I had won. One day, on the bus home, she pulled a hard pack of Marlboros from her messenger bag, because she was too unconventional for a backpack and too classy for a soft pack, and told me that she smoked and I said not to let her mom catch her and she said she opened her window and I said, put a scarf around your hair so you don't smell, and she said her mom didn't really pay attention to her anyway and I said that's a shame and she said that she didn't really mind but I guess she did because that summer killed herself. Emily Bishop came up to me the next day in the morning and asked me what Delilah had told me the previous afternoon and I told her it was none of her business and from then on






she acted real nice to me and sporadically asked me what Delilah had told me that day on the bus, but I never told her because she would snitch and Delilah had told me because she knew that I wouldn't. Me and him take you upstairs and lay you down on the couch and I say "Please don't hold your breath," and he had lain you on your back and I moved you onto your side because I remembered how Jimi Hendrix died, but you're too young for that fate, and not famous enough, besides, so I don't worry too much.

I walk into the hall, on the way to the bathroom, and there's a girl sobbing in front of the mirror. I walk past her and knock on the bathroom door, which is hard to do because it's one of those beaded fringe doors. I go in and the bathroom is so dirty, and it's not mine, but I clean it anyway and people walk in and out, using the toilet while I clean the bathtub and when I'm done, I lay back and on the ceiling, and there made of mold is the spitting image of Marky Monnone and so I turn to my side and ask the boy who's using the bathroom to look at it and I say "Do you see anything?" and he says "No," but I disregard him because he doesn't know who Marky Monnone is, anyway, and so I take his phone and take a picture, because I don't have picture mail, and I send the picture to Katy, because I know her number by heart and she calls me on my phone and says "Did you just send me a picture of Marky Monnone from a different number?" and I say I did and she says she's on her way and eleven hours later, she arrives on the scene and tells me that this is so insane and I have to spread the gospel and print the story in my zine, so here it is, Katy.

Situations in which it would be inappropriate to listen to the Great Dynamo


while snorkeling or scuba diving



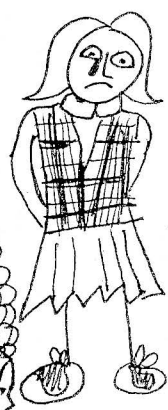
records are not water proof



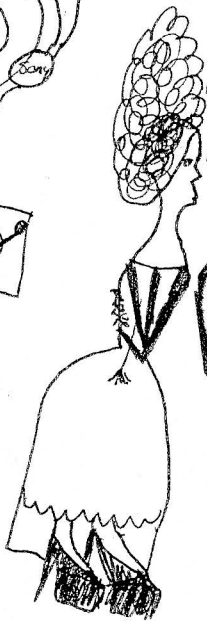
walrus (maybe)



get a copy of the average of his EP at unisex-mailorder.de or listen online at myspace.com/grestdynamo it's pretty OK!



with a child you just kidnapped (you should not kidnap people it is rude)



(Not the Queen)

making your debut in front of the Queen

Americans never REALLY believe we've failed...that we even can fail. We all COULD have been

an astronaut,

a race car driver,

a tugboat captain,

A ROCK STAR

a porn star,

the President

If no one speaks up, fuck 'em!

They don't know what they're talking about.

Hey!

I'm Louise Fucking Brooks and I can do what I want.

We believe we can and so we do.

It never really mattered who could and who couldn't, it just mattered who made people believe.

All you need is love. But you don't even really need that. All you need is hope. You just need to think that you could be in love, that the very best person on earth could walk through that door right now and it would all work out.

I believe in America.

I believe in love.

The moment you stop believing that is the moment you take the pills.